

ROBERT KERR

The name is prominent in early Scottish history. They were of Celtic origin and constituted a regular clan, having their own distinguishing tartan. The earliest name we have was of John Kerr of the Forest of Selkirk, living in the year A.D. 1357. He had a son Henry, a grandson, Robert of Auldtownburn. Robert had a son Andrew, three grandsons, Andrew, Thomas and James. The names of Walter in the next generation, Robert and Mark in the next and George and Sir Andrew in the next. In the ninth gen. we have Sir Walter, Mark, and Thomas. In the eleventh – Robert Kerr, Earl of Roxburg, 1616 and in the twelfth Lord William Kerr. The follows a list of Earls, baronets, Dukes, Abbots and Lords and Common folk too, but the prominent names were –Robert, Andrew, Thomas, James, John and William. Kerrs are still found among the nobility in Scotland. The Kerrs were among the Protestants and Covenanters, who were driven by persecution to northern Ireland.

The Kerrs of this community came from County Derry, Ireland. Alexander Kerr had three sons, Robert, Alexander and William and six girls. Robert had eight boys and four girls viz. John, Alex, James, William, Robert, Joseph, Andrew and Thomas. The girls were Nancy Simison, Betsey Swan, Esther Ross and Martha Hughes.

Robert Kerr came to Franklin County, Pennsylvania before the Revolutionary War, the others later. He married Agnes Elder, daughter of James Elder and Elizabeth Maips Elder. The following obituary, written by A. B. Naylor, Pastor of Pisgah Church is of interest.

“Died April 15, 1859, near Pisgah, Ross County, Ohio, at the residence of her son-in-law, Daniel Hughes, Mrs. Agnes Kerr in the 97th year of her age. The deceased was born March 1st, 1763 in what was then called Shippensburg Station, Franklin Co., Pa. In June 1784 she was married and united with the upper Path Valley Presbyterian Ch. there under the pastorate of Rev. Dougle. So she was connected with the church militant for nearly 75 yrs. But few disciples have so long a pilgrimage through this world of sorrow. Her parents both lived to over one hundred years. Her husband died in 1817 leaving her a widow with twelve children, six of whom, together with fifty-eight grandchildren, and one hundred and twelve great-grandchildren still survive. She and some of her children came to Ohio in 1826 and settled in Ross Co. Where she spent the remainder of her days in connection with Pisgah Ch. In the faithful discharge of those duties, domestic, social and religious which belonged to her station and her faithful precept and example of devoted and consistent piety are worthy to be remembered and regarded by her numerous relation and surviving friends. ‘be ye also ready’.

Robert Kerr b cir 1759 d June 13, 1817. Married June, 1784. Agnes Elder Kerr, daughter of James Elder and Elizabeth Maips, b March 17, 1763 d April 15, 1859.

Children of Revolutionary Ancestor

Name	Date of Birth	To Whom Married
Alexander Kerr	May 5, 1785	Sarah Peoples – 1814

(Robert Kerr, 2 of 2)

James Elder Kerr	Nov. 5, 1786	Nancy Cunningham – 8/6/1816
William Kerr	Aug. 9, 1788	Elizabeth Elder – 1818
Agnes Nancy Kerr	May 16, 1790	Robert Simion - 1811
Robert Kerr	Feb.3, 1792	Martha Elder – 1821
Elizabeth Kerr	Aug. 11, 1794	(Died 3/17/1795)
Elizabeth Kerr (2 nd)	Feb. 2, 1796	Robert Swan – 1822
Andrew Kerr	cir Mar. 11, 1798	Margaret Campbell
Joseph Kerr	cir Apr. 15, 1800	(Died Dec. 29, 1813)
Thomas Kerr	May 25, 1802	
Esther Kerr	Nov. 15, 1804	----- Ross
Martha Kerr	July 15, 1806	Daniel Hughes

Ancestor's services

Private, Sixth Class, in Capt. Patten's Company of the Sixth Battalion of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania Militia. In service July, 1778 in the War of the Revolution.

Robert Kerr, Jr. married Martha Elder in Pennsylvania on March 22nd, 1821. They emigrated to Indiana where six children were born to them, namely, Elder Robert, Mary Ann, James Alexander, Samuel Ross, Thomas and William Scott. Maralaria arising from the undrained swamps of Indiana took many lives in those days and Robert Kerr died October 6, 1837. Pioneer life was a hard struggle especially for a widow aged thirty-six with six small children, so the Kerr family, some of whom had come to Ohio in 1826 after the death of Robert, Sr., persuaded Martha to bring her family to Ohio, where they might assist her. Alexander and Nancy Tate Harper, and to them were born five daughters, Nancy, Martha, Frances, Sarah and Jane. The two older girls married John and Archibald Mains, sons of Washington and Hannah Bryan Mains. John and Nancy had three Children, Charles, Russell and Hannah. Charles married Jessie Thomas, and their children were Charles, Louise and John. Charles married Maud Harps, ch. Mary Jane and Charles. Louise married Dudley King, ch. Dudley, Jr. and Thomas. John married Helen Bliss Enderlin – one son, John, Jr., who at the time of this writing is a member of the Rebeckah Ross Chapter C.A.R.